however, no proposal to effect changes in the dresses of our Jawans from a strategic point of view.

Detection of North Korean ship carrying arms and ammunition

772. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a North Korean ship carrying arms and ammunition was recently noticed by the Naval Intelligence while heading towards India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the ship had unloaded its arms on any Indian port and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rashtriya Rifles Battalions

773. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rashtriya Rifles Battalions raised by the Indian Army during the last two years to meet the special counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) what was the original number of battalions approved by Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Six battalions of Rashtriya Rifles (RR) were raised by the Indian Army in the last two years.

(b) The Government has issued sanction for raising of 57 RR battalions, so far.

Flying of US F-16s in joint exercise with India

774. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Air Force will fly its F-16 planes for the first time in India in a joint exercise;

(b) if so, the details of number of flights which participated in the exercise;

(c) what is the aim of the joint exercises;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereupon;

(e) whether there were protests during the exercises at the venue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The United States Air Force (USAF) has flown its F-16 aircraft for the first time in India during the Indo-US Joint Air Exercise.

(b) Twelve US Air Force F-16 aircraft have participated in the exercise.

(c) To learn and benefit from the philosophy of operations followed by both the Air Forces and to update procedures and concepts of Airborne Warning and Air Control System (AWACS) operations.

(d) The actual expenditure incurred on the exercise is Rs. 21,20,000/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Twenty Thousand only).

(e) and (f) Some protest rallies were organized by the Left front at Kolkata and Kalaikunda on 4th, 5th & 7th of November 2005. However, adequate security arrangements had been made.

MiG CRASHES

775. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of MiG-21 and MiG-29, Air Force aircraft that have met with accidents during the last three months; month-wise;

(b) the total number of lives lost as a result thereof;

(c) the total financial loss suffered by Government as a result of these accidents; and

(d) whether Government are considering to put such aircrafts under the shadows for ever; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian Air Force has lost one MiG-21 in an accident during the last three months; on 26th October, 2005. There were no accidents of MiG-29 during this period.

(b) One Pilot sustained fatal injuries in the accident.

(c) A Court of Inquiry (CoI) has been ordered which is in progress. The loss will be known only after the finalisation of the CoI.

(d) Phasing out any aircraft, including MiG aircraft is as per the phase out plan on the basis of the Total Technical Life or Calendar Life of the